(c) if so, the deails thereof and reasons therefor; and

(d) action contemplated by Government to expedite the rail passenger service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) At present, no passenger trains are running between Samdari-Barmer-Jasai due to Gauge conversion work.

(b) and (c) Broad Gauge track has already been laid between Samdari and Jasai. Signalling and other connected works are in progress and likely to be completed in a month's time.

(d) It is proposed to introduce two pairs of passenger trains between Jodhpur and Barmer via Samdari after the completion of Gauge conversion. work.

Commercial use of surplus land

678. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways has droped its Plan to commercially exploit its surplus land resources;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) if not, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railways have taken up 62 large sites (having area more than 1000 sq. m) for commercial development of land/air space. Preliminary/ feasibility market studies have been completed for 46 sites. Out of these, finanfcial bids in 7 cases have been finalised. Powers have also been delegated to General Managers to execute small projects (upto 1000 sq.m. area) in other than 4 metropolitan cities. Rs. 4.0 crore have so far been realised from property development.